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Message Text

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12
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

/044 W
---------- 052046
R 130900Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3316

DEPARTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE, S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, NP, US
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS DISCUSSION WITH KING OF NEPAL

NEW DELHI AND ANKARA FOR DEA

1. SUMMARY: BACKGROUND ON HASH OIL IS REQUESTED FOR POSSIBLE USE IN UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN THE KING OF NEPAL AND AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. I EXPECT TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO TO DISCUSS SOME ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WITH THE KING.

3. AS ONE MEANS OF HIGHLIGHTING OUR CONCERN OVER THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN NEPAL IN A MEANINGFUL WAY TO THE KING, THERE MAY BE ADVANTAGE IN TALKING A BIT ABOUT HASH OIL. THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH CASES OF HASH OIL OF NEPALESE ORIGIN BEING SEIZED IN THE U.S., OR EN ROUTE, TO ESTABLISH NEPAL AS ONE SOURCE FOR HASH OIL MOVING IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. MY IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, FROM A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS THAT THE HASH OIL PROBLEM IS NOT WIDELY KNOWN HERE OR EVEN IDENTIFIED WITH NEPAL.

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4. WITH THIS BY WAY OF EXPLANATION, CAN YOU PROVIDE ME BY

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CABLE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS SOME BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HASH OIL, TAILORED TO THE USE INDICATED ABOVE.

5. I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU COULD INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS: A) IS OUR UNDERSTANDING CORRECT THAT HASH OIL IS RELATIVELY NEW ON THE DRUG SCENE AND IS NOW ENTERING THE WORLD ILLICIT TRAFFIC ON AN INCREASING SCALE? B) IS THERE EVIDENCE THAT MOVEMENT OF HASH OIL IS INCREASINGLY BEING HANDLED BY HIGHLY ORGANIZED PROFESSIONAL TRAFFICKERS? C) HOW DO WE VIEW THE THREAT OF HASH OIL FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW AND HOW CAN WE DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO SUPPRESSING THE TRAFFIC IN THIS SUBSTANCE? D) WHAT CAN BE BRIEFLY SAID ABOUT THE DEMAND FOR HASH OIL, METHODS OF USE, POTENCY AND HARMFUL EFFECTS? E) HOW IS HASH OIL PRODUCED? IS IT TRUE THAT THE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR PRODUCTION ARE RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND CAN BE DEVISED OR ACQUIRED READILY EVEN IN AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY LIKE NEPAL?

6. FOR DEA DELHI AND ANKARA: OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE FURNISHED TO THE GON ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES INFORMATION ABOUT A NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVING HASH OIL OF NEPALESE ORIGIN DESTINED FOR THE U.S., BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY DEA. I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL TO HANDLE THE QUESTION OF NEPAL AS A SOURCE OF HASH OIL ADEQUATELY WITH THE KING, BUT IF THERE ARE OTHER NOTABLE CASES INVOLVING HASH OIL OF NEPALESE ORIGIN, I WOULD APPRECIATE CAPSULIZED INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, HASHISH, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KATHMA03316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740221-0770
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740852/aaaabsrz.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS DISCUSSION WITH KING OF NEPAL NEW DELHI AND ANKARA FOR DEA
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, NP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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